

## PCB SPILLS

**A. PROCEDURE.** This procedure applies to spills of PCBs at concentrations of 50 ppm or greater. As with reportable quantity spills, the reporting, decontamination and recordkeeping requirements of the PCB spill clean-up policy are a host responsibility. Standard Interservice Support Agreements should include this responsibility. Follow spill reporting procedures in Chapter VII of this manual.

### **B. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

1. Under CERCLA, spills of PCB material at any concentration containing one pound or more of PCBs must be reported to the **National Response Center (1-800-424-8802)**. For this requirement, the actual amount of PCBs in the material must be calculated based on the concentration and volume spilled.

2. If a spill directly contaminates surface waters, sewers, drinking water supplies, grazing lands or vegetable gardens, contact the National Response Center, then the appropriate EPA Regional Office for clean-up measures no later than 24 hours after the spill (See enclosure 7).

3. Any other spills of over ten pounds of PCB material must be reported to the appropriate EPA Regional Office and the spill site decontaminated in 24 hours. For this required, ten pounds refers to the total amount of material spilled; i.e., generally one gallon of PCB dielectric fluid (See enclosure 7).

4. Spills of ten pounds or less (one gallon of PCB dielectric fluid) must be cleaned up but not reported to EPA.

### **C. DECONTAMINATION REQUIREMENTS.**

1. **Low-Concentration Spills** which involve less than one pound of PCBs by weight (less than 270 gallons of untested mineral oil):

a. **Solid Surfaces.** All free flowing material must be contained with absorptive materials; e. g., sawdust. The surface must be double-washed/rinsed with a recommended solvent (xylene, toluene, kerosene), using enough free fluid in each wash/rinse to cover the contaminated surface completely. PCBs should never be hosed down with water. The wash/rinse requirements does not mean the mere spreading of solvent over the surface, nor does it mean a once-over wipe with a soaked cloth.

b. **Soils.** Visible traces of soil and a buffer of a lateral foot must be excavated and the ground restored to original configuration by back-filling with clean soil.

2. **High Concentration** (greater than or equal to 500 ppm) and low-concentration (<500 ppm) spills which involve one pound or more of PCBs by weight (270 gallons or more of untested materials):

a. The spill area plus a three-foot buffer must be cordoned off and clearly visible signs placed advising people to avoid the area to minimize the spread of contamination as well as the potential for human exposure.

b. Clean-up visible traces of fluid on hard surfaces must be initiated and all visible traces of the spill on soil and other media such as gravel, sand, etc., must be removed.

c. **Solid Surfaces.** High contact solid surfaces and low contact indoor surfaces must be cleaned to 10 ug/100 cm<sup>2</sup> (as measured by standard wipe tests). Low-contact, outdoor surfaces must be cleaned to 100 ug/100 cm<sup>2</sup>.

d. Soils in restricted access areas (such as the DRMO yard) contaminated by the spill must be cleaned to 25 ppm PCBs.

**D. RECORDKEEPING.** The following information must be recorded for all spills and kept for a minimum of 5 years:

1. Identification of the source of the spill.
2. Estimated or actual date and time of spill occurrence.
3. Date and time clean-up completed or terminated. Brief description of spill location and nature of materials contaminated.
4. Pre-clean-up sampling data used to establish the spill boundaries if required because of insufficient visible traces, and a brief description of sampling methodology used to establish spill boundaries.
5. Brief description of solid surfaces cleaned and of double wash/rinse method used (if applicable).
6. Approximate depth of soil excavation and amount of soil removed.
7. Certification statement signed by responsible party or designated agent stating that clean-up requirements have been met and that information contained in the record is true to the best of his/her knowledge.